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MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Communication received from the Government of South Africa containing a request to be given recipient status.

Note by the Administrator

1. The Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has received a communication from the Government of South Africa containing a request to be given recipient status. The communication is reproduced in annex I.

2. In order to enable the Executive Board to consider the request of South Africa, additional information is provided in annex II.

Annex I

LETTER DATED 27 MAY 1994 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF UNDP

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to learn that the United Nations Development Programme has decided to establish a Liaison Office in South Africa, headed by Mr. Alioune Sall, and that he has now taken up his post in Johannesburg.

The South African Government hereby confirms that it would be grateful if the UNDP could grant recipient status to South Africa in order that it may benefit from the UNDP's valuable expertise and assistance in the field of development cooperation especially with a view to the amelioration of the standard of living of the larger part of the South African population. For its part the South African Government stands ready to assist the UNDP in its activities, especially in Southern Africa, where South African technical expertise may be of value.

If initially we are not able to contribute as much in terms of voluntary contributions to the UNDP as we would desire, due to the priorities of our National Reconstruction and Development Programme, we are confident of being able to participate fully in other ways.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Alfred Nzo
(Signed)

Annex II

COMMENTS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR

To assist the Executive Board in its consideration of the request from the Government of South Africa for recipient status, and for the possible establishment of an indicative planning figure (IPF), the Administrator would like to bring the following to the attention of the Board:

(a) Available statistical data relating to economic and social indicators for South Africa lack precision, particularly as they relate to the majority of the population. However, as some recent surveys undertaken in connection with the preparation of the Human Development Report 1994 indicate, there exist wide divergencies and disparities in income levels and living standards among the different segments of the populations;

(b) Thus, the 1992 gross national product (GNP) per capita figure of $2,670 reported for South Africa is unrepresentative of the actual income levels of the majority population and, therefore, misleading as a measure of the technical cooperation needs of the country. Disaggregated information obtained in connection with the survey mentioned above confirms that the income levels of the majority of the population is equal to that of a least-developed country;

(c) The Administrator therefore believes that it would be inappropriate to compute an IPF based on the figure cited above. He therefore recommends an allocation of $10 million for this period, which is roughly commensurate with the IPFs of countries/programmes that would reflect the situation of the majority of the population of South Africa in terms of income levels and other supplementary criteria. This would permit immediate assistance to be provided to the country pending the resolution of the methodological and statistical issues in the context of the sixth programming cycle;

(d) Should the Executive Board accept the present recommendation, the allocation of $10 million would be established in accordance with Governing Council decision 92/30, which provides for the financing of IPFs within the original planning framework.